

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-32 are currently pending. Claims 1, 6, 7, 21, and 22 have been amended and claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled. Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 13-15 and 27-32 are allowed and claims 3, 6-11, and 21-24 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 3 as well as intervening claim 2. As such, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 4-5, 12, 16-20, and 25-26 depend from claim 1 and are also allowable.

Applicants have also rewritten claims 6 and 7 to include the base claim and any intervening claims. As such, claims 6 and 7 are allowable. Claims 8-11 depend from claim 7 and are also allowable.

Applicants have rewritten claims 21 and 22 to include the base claim and any intervening claims. As such, claims 21 and 22 are allowable. Claims 23-24 depend from claim 22 and are also allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-5, 12, and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sloan.

In view of the aforementioned amendment of claim 1, this rejection is moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sloan in view of Wendel. The Examiner also rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sloan in view of Quevedo del Rio. The Examiner rejected claims 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sloan in view of Stafford.

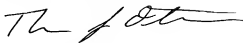
Claims 16-17, 20, and 25-26 depend from claim 1. Applicants' amendment of claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 3 renders this rejection moot.

CONCLUSION

While Applicants disagree with the Examiner's rejections, Applicants have amended the claims to place the application into a condition for allowance and expedite prosecution. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of claims 1 and 4-32.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney should the Examiner determine that such action would facilitate the prosecution and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Th J Otterlee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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